

187 19.16 Times/19.2.08

Unimas to work with firms to produce quality graduates

KUCHING: Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (Unimas) will collaborate with multinational companies to organise more capacity-building programmes to produce quality graduates.

Its deputy vice-chancellor (academic and international affairs) Prof Mohd Azib Salleh said this was to enable undergraduates to develop the soft skills and the ability to assimilate, integrate and understand the working environment.

Speaking at the certificate and prize-giving ceremony for PRESTIGE Sarawak here Sunday night, he said one of the multinational companies that collaborated with Unimas in this aspect is Shell Malaysia Gas and Power.

"This collaboration also exposes them to better options in the job market such as seeking jobs offshore rather than looking for jobs with the government (after they graduate)," he said.

A total of 49 final-year student engineers participated in the PRESTIGE (Practical Environmental, Safety and Industrial Guidance for Engineers) workshop held over the weekend at the Unimas Staff Training Centre in Bau.

The future engineers were exposed to Shell's health, safety and environment (HSE) knowledge, tools and best practice to help them identify HSE risks in the workplace and manage them properly.

They were divided into 10 groups and given a case study that required them to apply the HSE knowledge, tools and best practice to various real-life scenarios. From this, the three best groups would be picked and rewarded with prizes.

Azib and Shell Malaysia vice-president Dick Benschop presented the prizes to the top three teams.

Benschop in his speech said the PRESTIGE workshop, organised by Shell Malaysia for the second time since its inception last year, was part of its commitment to sustainable development.

"Our objective is to share the importance of HSE in the workplace with these future engineers using Shell's HSE tools and best practice to enable them to see its importance in the workplace and make it part and parcel of their work culture," he said.

He said Shell Malaysia will next hold PRESTIGE Sabah in collaboration with Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) in Kota Kinabalu from March 15-16.